

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa
Loma Linda	Yucca Valley

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WEBSITE AND LETTER GRADES FOR FOOD FACILITIES COMING OCTOBER 1

Beginning October 1, San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services will begin posting letter grades in food facilities in the unincorporated areas of the county, including restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets, bakeries, bars, etc.

At the same time, food facility data will be posted on the county's internet site at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

However, the public should keep in mind that letter grades and internet information will become available as restaurants are inspected. Food facilities are inspected twice per year so it may take more than six months for grades and data to be available for all of the county's approximately 6,200 facilities.

"While the food supply in the United States is one of the safest in the world, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 76 million people suffer from foodborne illness each year. Of these, more than 300,000 are hospitalized and 5,000 die. Preventing foodborne illness and death remains a major public health challenge. To this end, Registered Environmental Health Specialists inspect food establishments countywide to ensure laws protecting public health are met," said Jim Felten, Public Health Director. "The public has been very vocal in wanting letter grades in restaurants. We expect this will satisfy consumers and help them make informed decisions about where to eat."

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Cities will have the choice of adopting the ordinance that was approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 17, 2004. Until they do, it will be up to the restaurants in those cities whether or not to post the grade cards.

“However, we expect all food facilities will want to post their letter grade cards because the public will begin asking about their grades,” commented Felten. All restaurants in county areas will be required to post their grade card.

Environmental Health Services conducted 13 workshops throughout the county to educate the owners and managers of food facilities about some of the finer points of the new system. An ABC Retail Food Inspection Guide was given to each participating facility. “All of our workshops had high attendance and we are confident they are eager to begin the new grading system,” Felten said. “Overall, we think this will benefit everyone, from the owner to the customer.”

MARK H. UFFER
County Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors

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